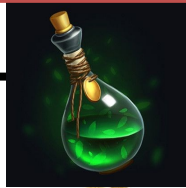




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What is a potion?

Potions are liquids that are said to have healing or magical properties. Before people knew about modern medicines, healing potions, often made from herbs, were thought to cure a range of health problems. In fantasy stories and films, potions are usually made by a magician or a witch. They can do magical things such as healing, bewitching or poisoning.

Potions in Shakespeare's plays

William Shakespeare used potions for different effects in some of his plays. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the character Puck uses a love potion to create chaos:

*The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid
Will make man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.*

A sleeping potion is used in *Romeo and Juliet*, with tragic consequences:

*Take thou this vial, being then in bed,
And this distilled liquor drink thou off,
When presently through all thy veins shall run
A cold and drowsy humour*

In *Macbeth*, three witches make a potion to help Macbeth see into the future. It contains all sorts of strange things:

*Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake,
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing*

Glossary

condensation	the process of gas cooling and becoming a liquid
evaporation	the process of a liquid becoming a gas by heating
freezing	the process of a liquid becoming a solid by cooling
matter	a physical substance that takes up space
melting	the process of a solid becoming a liquid when it is heated
particle	an extremely small piece of matter
potion	a liquid that is not a medicine and is believed to have a magical effect on someone who drinks it
vapour	a gas or very small drops of liquid that result from heating a liquid

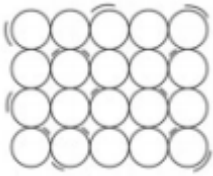

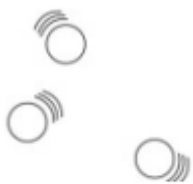


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Solids, Liquid and Gases

State	Particle Formation	Properties	Examples
Solid		Materials in a solid state keep their shape unless a force is applied to them. They will not change shape on their own.	Wood, bricks, butter, ice
Liquid		Materials in a liquid state take the shape of the container they are in. Although liquids can change shape, they do not change their volume.	water, milk, oil, honey
Gas		Materials in a gaseous state can spread out to completely fill the container or room they are in. Gases can be squashed. Gases do not keep their shape.	air, oxygen, water vapour, carbon dioxide

Changing State

Matter can change state by heating and cooling.

